

John Hancock Esq.

London 16<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1769

Dear Sir

Herewith You have Copy of our last respects We have now the pleasure of advising You of your most esteemed favours of 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> by Cazneau & Freeman who both arrived safe in our River about 10 days ago after a tedious passage owing to a long run of Easterly winds We return You our acknowledgments for your good offices towards Freeman & have the fullest confidence that the Oyl &c.<sup>a</sup> for our Auct<sup>n</sup> on board him was purchased on the most advantageous terms We have sold the White Oyl at £26. 10 & the whole Oyl at £17. 10 so that taking both together they will pay a good freight, which was all we aimed at; The Invoice shall be examined & the Amount thereof thankfully placed to your credit By Freeman we have recd £600 of pott lish upon your own Auct<sup>n</sup>, the Sale of w<sup>ch</sup> we have agreed at 32/6 - 4/8, It will be delivered in a few days & our next will convey the Auct<sup>n</sup> Sales By Cazneau we have bill of Lading for Oyl &c<sup>a</sup> for your own Auct<sup>n</sup>, for the Sale of all which we have agreed upon the same prices as we sold our own cargo & Freeman w<sup>ch</sup> we hope You will approve We wish we could say we saw any prospect of her selling for a tolerable price but that is at present quite out of sight, so that we are <sup>under</sup> a necessity of sending her back; A Vessel of her size may possibly sell in the Summer but if You choose she should be parted with next Voyage we should esteem it a favour that You mention what price You would think a tolerable one We ask this as an ease to our own minds for be assured Sir it would not prevent us in the least from getting as much more than your limits as we possibly could Inclosed



You have Invoice & bill of Lading for 10 Tons of Hemp shipped on board her for your Quot<sup>r</sup> amounting to £262.2.10 on w<sup>ch</sup> we have made £268 Ins<sup>ce</sup> of Gen<sup>l</sup> being £6.16.8. Agreeable to your standing orders we have not made any Insurance on the Vessel. We duly observed your instructions not to suffer any freight to be put on board any of your Vessels except Hemp, Duck & other licensed articles, but upon the fullest consideration we have ventured to deviate from those instructions, for which we hope we shall have your excuse when we tell you that our reason for so doing was that no such orders have been given by any of the Owners of the Vessels in the Trade except yourself, or if any such have been given they have been totally disregarded by every one who has been here this Fall; not one of them but what has taken on board everything of every kind that has offered & we cannot suppose that you mean to bind yourself alone to conform to the agreement of the Merchants on that head while every other Ship Owners pays no attention to it & indeed to speak our own sentiments upon this subject the agreement if scrupulously adhered to by all the Ships in the Trade could not possibly answer the intended purpose of preventing the Importation of Goods, for if there are Goods to be shipped there will never be wanting Vessels to carry them. The Scotchmen here who have been the largest Shippers this Fall have we are told an intention of chartering a Vessel in the Spring for Boston who is afterwards to go to Virginia for a freight home & by this or some such means it is evident there will be no difficulty to find Ships to carry Goods to Boston if every Ship belonging to that place should refuse to take them in. In justice to Cayneau we must not omit to say that he has been very uneasy at our not suffering him to comply with your instructions on this head & nothing but our assuring him that we would take the blame upon ourselves would have induced him to do it. We must therefore hope that you will excuse him & altho' we should be most unhappy in incurring your displeasure, yet we must in the present instance risque the so doing rather than let him who is



perfectly innocent bear any part of it; at the same time we flatter ourselves that the reasons which we have mentioned as our inducements to take this measure will appear in the same light to you as they do to us & then we have no apprehension that you will be in the least degree dissatisfied. We can truly say that as faithful Factors for your Interest we did not think ourselves at liberty to do otherwise. We have not ourselves shipped a single article on board her but what we understand to be licensed Goods, nor indeed is the whole of what he has on board much worth notice. What turn the Trade will take in the Spring is very uncertain but we think it right just to mention to you that there are several orders in Town positively directed to be shipped in the first Vessels that sail after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. We have some such ourselves & the other Houses more. We shall wait the advices w<sup>ch</sup> may arrive by the next Ships before we take any Resolution thereon, but at present these orders appear to us very ill timed, for as the Parliament do not meet till the middle of January, the execution of any orders of consequence just at that critical time will most probably have no very agreeable effect upon their Resolutions respecting the Revenue Acts & for that reason ought to be avoided. We wish we may be able to make all the other shippers of our mind on this head & that by general consent we may be able to lay still till we know the Resolutions of the House.

Since our last we have by several small payments recovered the whole of the money from John Durr for the note w<sup>ch</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> Lyde left with us for his Board w<sup>ch</sup> is therefore to your credit, as is also £310.5.1 for nett proceeds of Cap<sup>t</sup> White's freight, the Acc<sup>t</sup> of which you will find enclosed. Upon examination it is found free from error please note it in conformity. You have also enclosed W<sup>m</sup> Jones's Acc<sup>t</sup> for £290.5.2 paid him by your order & Cap<sup>t</sup> Lazneau's Acc<sup>t</sup> for £60. — supplied him for the use of the Vessels — We are heartily vexed at Meino's obstinacy respecting the 100 p<sup>cs</sup> of Duck shipped you by Flood to which we have given the fullest answer we are able in a Letter addressed to Mr. Palfrey. We wish what we are able to say in that affair may answer



every end it ought but we rather suppose before you receive this  
letter all that matter will be at an end Your own reputation  
of known Honour must have removed every suspicion & doubt in the  
minds even of the most obstinate - We are with the truest  
esteem

Dear Sir Your most Obligated & devoted  
Wm. Hayley & J. Hopkins

Hayley & Hopkins  
114 Cornhill  
London  
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Ch. F. 1.92